



VERMONT ENERGY
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Efficiency Vermont Low Income Single Family Service

Low Income Energy Efficiency Symposium
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Jim Grevatt | *Vermont Energy Investment Corporation*

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)

- Private non-profit
- Energy efficiency and renewables consulting and program implementation for 20 years
- Prime contractor for the Vermont “Energy Efficiency Utility” since inception in 2000
- SBC-funded, state-wide efficiency services
- Residential and Commercial, all sectors



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A green silhouette of a mountain range, likely representing the Green Mountains of Vermont, serves as a background for the main title.

Efficiency Vermont

your resource for energy savings

Low Income Services

- PSB contract requires 15% of spending for low-income services
- Single (1-4 unit houses and Mobile Homes) and multi-family (5+)
- Build on strengths of existing services
- Geographic equity: eliminate gaps where utilities previously provided limited or no services

Low Income Single Family (LISF)

- Strong existing WAP infrastructure
- 80% WAP funding from state gross receipts tax on heating fuels, 20% DOE WX
- Comprehensive, instrumented approach
- Well-established presence in low-income community, community action agencies
- Limited electrical efficiency, inconsistent piggyback programs in different utility territories
- Mainly CFLs and water conservation

Low Income Single Family (LISF)

- Contract for consistent services with each of five WAP agencies, uniform pricing and services regardless of utility
- CFLs and water conservation
- Refrigerators
- DHW and space heat fuel switch
- Fixtures
- Still very little cooling

WAPS:

- Identify customers, verify eligibility
- Conduct audits, include DI of CFLs, Water conservation
- Auditors screen refrigerator/freezer early retirement (metering or AHAM data)
- Auditors screen EL DHW and EL Space heat fuel switch opportunities
- Arrange and coordinate delivery of measures
- Invoice Efficiency Vermont

Efficiency Vermont:

- Training for WAP auditors
- Screening tools and guidelines
- Technical resource
- Incentives for measures
- Fees for audit and admin expenses
- Largely invisible

Low Income Single Family (LISF)

- 1000-1100 participants yearly
- \$1.1 million per year
- Avg Participant electric savings of \$234/yr
- 75% / 25% cost share on fuel-switching with WAP
- 100% for refrigerators / freezers

Benefits:

- Uniform and equitable state-wide
- Customers benefit from comprehensive electric savings- not just CFLs and water
- More economical for Efficiency Vermont than trying to create an independent service
- Would have taken years to gain access to LI community without existing WAPS
- Revenue to WAPs strengthens their base
- WAPs benefit from training

Lessons learned:

- Value for all parties in this program
- Understand benefits and limitations, recognize that agendas won't always align (ex. WAP need to address H&S may overshadow electric efficiency)
- WAPs more receptive to “partnership” than “subcontractor”
- Minimize program “tweaks”-frequent changes are disruptive

Multi-family:

- Expanded from pre-Efficiency Vermont collaborative between larger utilities and DPS
- Comprehensive, all-fuels approach
- Almost 100% of new subsidized affordable housing
- Leverage comprehensive approach by providing design assistance incentives on a per-living unit basis rather than per measure

Multi-family:

- Existing subsidized housing largely fuel switching from electric heat and DHW
- DI lighting and water
- Work with WAPS where occupants are income-eligible
- Beginning to approach private, non-subsidized low-income multi-family, challenges from diverse housing types and ownership



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